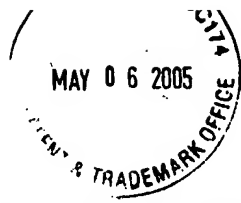


P24077.A04



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Shinnosuke NAKAHARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Appln. No. : 10/642,684

Examiner: Bruce Snow

Filed : August 19, 2003

For : INTERVERTEBRAL CAGE

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop: AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of January 6, 2005, which set a three-month shortened statutory period to expire on April 6, 2005, and for which a Request for Extension of Time for one month is being filed concurrently herewith, setting the period for response to expire May 6, 2005, Applicants submit the amendments and remarks as follows for entry in the above-identified patent application and request reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the application, in due course:

**Amendments to the Specification** are contained on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.